

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for splitting a test piece with a slit, comprising:
a base with a centerline for aligning with the slit of the test piece;
two pillars disposed on the base separated by a fixed first interval to support the test piece at a first side ~~thereof~~ of the test piece, wherein a connection line between the pillars is perpendicular to and divided equally by the centerline; and
a sliding piece disposed on and in contact with the base at a second side of the test piece, which is opposite to the first side thereof, wherein the sliding piece is slidable on the base along the centerline thereof and has two fingers parallel to the centerline separated by a second interval, which is smaller than the first interval, and a connection line between the tips of the fingers is perpendicular to and divided equally by the centerline, and the two fingers are arranged to contact the test piece at two sides of the slit when the sliding piece slides toward the test piece thereby splitting the test piece along the slit.
2. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base has two pivot points at the both sides of the centerline to install the pillars.

3. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the pivot points are separated by the first interval, which is divided equally by the centerline.
4. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base has a straight groove along the centerline, and the sliding piece has a protrusion movable in the groove along the centerline.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base has a straight groove along the centerline, the sliding piece has a protrusion movable in the groove along the centerline, and the width of the protrusion substantially matches the width of the groove on the base, such that the sliding piece is movable in the groove along the centerline.
7. (Currently amended) An apparatus for splitting a test piece with a slit, comprising:
a base having a groove formed along a centerline defined on the base, wherein the centerline is used for aligning with the slit of the test piece;

two pillars disposed on the base and separated by a fixed first interval to support the test piece, wherein a connection line between the pillars is perpendicular to and divided equally by the centerline; and

a sliding piece, disposed on and in contact with the base, having a protrusion slidable in the groove, wherein the sliding piece has two fingers parallel to the centerline and separated by a second interval, which is smaller than the first interval, and a connection line between the tips of the fingers is perpendicular to and divided equally by the centerline, and the two fingers are arranged to contact the test piece at two sides of the slit when the sliding piece slides toward the test piece thereby splitting the test piece along the slit.